

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TEHRAN NIACT IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652:

TAGS:ETRD,EASA, USIRJC

SUBJECT: JOINT AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE MEMO OF UNDERSTANDING

REF: TEHRAN 1224

1. YOU WILL NOTE THAT DRAFT MINUTES OF JOINT COMMISSION MEETING DIFFER SIGNIFICANTLY IN SECTION ON AGRICULTURE FROM LANGUAGE IN MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING SIGNED AT END OF MEETING OF JOINT COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE FEB 5. PARA 3 OF THAT MEMORANDUM STATES QUOTE IN ORDER TO ASSURE IRAN'S ACCESS TO FOOD AND FEED SUPPLIES.....THE UNITED STATES WILL ENCOURAGE THE CONCLUSION OF LONG-TERM PURCHASING AGREEMENTSAND WILL TAKE ALL NECESSARY STEPS TO FACILITATE THE EXPORT OF SUCH COMMODITIES TO IRAN UNQUOTE.

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2. WE ARE CONCERNED THAT THIS LANGUAGE MAY IMPLY COMMITMENT TO EXCLUDE IRAN FROM IMPOSITION OF EXPORT CONTROLS OR AT A MINIMUM GIVE PREFERENTIAL TREATMENT TO LONG-TERM CONTRACTS SIGNED BY IRAN WITH U.S. FIRMS. WE WISH TO GUARD AGAINST SUCH INTERPRETATION. WHILE WE CONTINUE TO REGARD THE POSSIBILITY OF EXPORT CONTROLS ON U.S. AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS AS REMOTE AT THIS TIME, WE CANNOT GUARANTEE THAT IRAN (OR ANY OTHER COUNTRY) WOULD BE EXEMPT FROM SUCH CONTROLS.

NOR CAN WE GUARANTEE THAT LONG-TERM CONTRACTS PER SE WOULD RECEIVE PREFERENTIAL TREATMENT, ALTHOUGH OBVIOUSLY PAST TRADE PATTERNS WOULD PROBABLY BE ONE BASIS FOR ALLOCATING TRADE; TO EXTENT THAT LONG-TERM CONTRACTS INCREASE TRADE THEY WOULD HAVE SOME IMPACT ON FINAL U.S. ACTION.

3. EQUALLY IMPORTANTLY, WE SEE A POTENTIAL CONFLICT WITH U.S. COMMITMENTS UNDER INTERNATIONAL RESERVES INITIATIVE OF SECRETARY KISSINGER WHICH WE ARE NOW PURSUING AND WHICH COULD RESULT IN UNDERTAKINGS BY U.S. AND OTHERS TO GIVE PREFERENTIAL TREATMENT TO OTHER PARTICIPANTS ON BASIS OF CRITERIA YET TO BE DETERMINED.

4. THUS IT IS IMPORTANT THAT EMBASSY INFORM APPROPRIATE GOI OFFICIALS THAT LANGUAGE IN MEMORANDUM ON ACCESS TO U.S. AGRICULTURAL SUPPLIES HAS CAUSED US LEGAL AND POLICY PROBLEMS. IN REVIEWING RECOMMENDATIONS OF JOINT COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE (AS CONTAINED IN MEMORANDUM) IN PREPARATION FOR MEETING OF JOINT COMMISSION WE HAVE FOUND IT NECESSARY TO MAKE CHANGES IN LANGUAGE THAT WILL MAKE IT POSSIBLE FOR THE USG TO APPROVE THEM. THE LANGUAGE DRAFTED FOR THE JOINT MINUTES OF THE COMMISSION EMBODIES THOSE CHANGES.

5. IN INFORMING GOI YOU SHOULD STRESS OUR CONTINUED SYMPATHETIC INTEREST IN HELPING IRAN MEET ITS LONG-TERM FOOD NEEDS AND EMPHASIZE THAT ANY BILATERAL COMMITMENTS BY THE U.S. AT THIS TIME ON FOOD SUPPLIES MIGHT CONFLICT WITH UNDERTAKINGS UNDER ANY FUTURE MULTILATERAL RESERVES ARRANGEMENT ON GRAIN, SUCH AS THOSE NOW UNDER DISCUSSION.

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6. AS IRANIANS AWARE QUOTE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING UNQUOTE AND JOINT MINUTES OF ALL OTHER JOINT COMMITTEES WERE SIGNED AD REFERENDUM AND RECOMMENDATIONS CONTAINED IN THEM ARE SUBJECT TO REVIEW AT JOINT COMMISSION MEETING. WE CONSIDER AS BINDING ONLY THOSE RECOMMENDATIONS APPROVED BY THE JOINT COMMISSION AND IN THE LANGUAGE APPROVED BY THE JOINT COMMISSION AND EMBODIED IN ITS JOINT MINUTES. KISSINGER

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